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JAN 27 2004

VPI/01-119 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Janet L. Andres, Ph.D
 Group Art Unit : 1646
 Applicants : Pravin Chaturvedi, et al.
 Application No.: 09/941,282
 Filed : August 28, 2001
 For : OPTIMAL COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS THEREOF
 FOR TREATING HCV INFECTIONS

OFFICIAL

Cambridge, Massachusetts
January 23, 2004

Commissioner of Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1), applicants hereby petition for a two month extension of time to respond to the Examiner's Action dated August 26, 2003. With the extension, a response is due on or before January 26, 2004.

The Director is authorized to charge the requisite fee of \$420.00 that is due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(2) to Deposit Account No. 50-0725. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Badia
 Michael C. Badia
 Reg. No. 51,424
 Agent for Applicants
 Nandakumar Govindaswamy
 Ltd. Recognition
 Attorney for Applicants

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